

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments after final rejection as narrowing the issues and presenting the claims in condition for allowance or in better condition for appeal is respectfully solicited. The foregoing amendments after final rejection have not been earlier presented because of the Response to Arguments in the action and the indicated allowability of claims 4-7, 12-17, 19-25 and 27-30.

Claims 1-3, 5-18, 20-26 and 28-30 are pending and at issue in the application with claims 1, 18 and 26 being independent claims. Claims 1, 18 and 26 have been amended. Claims 4, 19 and 27 have been cancelled. As a result, three independent claims remain in the application as previously paid for, and 27 total claims remain in the application as previously paid for. The applicant believes no fee is due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the amount enclosed or any additional fees which may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 13-2855. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the remarks below is respectfully requested.

The official action rejected claims 1-3, 8-11, 18 and 26 as anticipated by Hahn et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0198102). The official action objected to each of claims 4-7, 12-17, 19-25 and 27-30 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated claims 4-7, 12-17, 19-25 and 27-30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The applicant greatly appreciates and thanks the examiner for the indication of allowability.

Independent claims 1, 18 and 26 have been amended to incorporate the features of allowable claims 4, 19 and 27, respectively. Accordingly, the allowability of claims 4, 19 and 27, as indicated in the action, causes claims 1, 18 and 26 and all claims depending therefrom to be in allowable form.

Appl. No. 10/796,550
Amdt. dated April 20, 2007
Reply to final official action of February 20, 2007

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims and allowance thereof are respectfully requested. Should the examiner wish to discuss the foregoing, or any matter of form, in an effort to advance this application towards allowance, the examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned at the indicated number.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP
233 S. Wacker Drive
6300 Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357
(312) 474-6300

By: _____

Aaron M. Peters
Registration No.: 48,801
Attorney for Applicant

Dated: April 20, 2007